

Meet the People Who Work on Our Highways

State of Nebraska
Department ♦ of ♦ Roads



Their work never ends!

You will see them on the highway filling potholes in the spring, mowing the right-of-way in the summer, repairing hazardous cracks in the fall, and plowing snow in the winter.

When you don't see them, they are monitoring construction projects and obtaining valuable information that helps the Nebraska Department of Roads plan, design, and maintain a safe and efficient highway system.

These men and women are:

Maintenance Workers
Supervisors
Surveyors
Inspectors
Project Managers
Private Contractors

Meet the people who work on our highways...



Highway Maintenance Worker...

The primary job of the Maintenance Worker is to maintain the State's highways and rights-of-way.

Maintenance Workers are truly jacks-of-all-trades. They repair roads with asphalt or concrete, repair bridges and guardrails, fill cracks, operate many kinds of equipment, mow, clear drainage systems, pick up litter, cut shrubbery, and put up signs.

Those are only a few of the things that are done on an average work day. There is also emergency work. Snowstorms, floods, and traffic accident repairs require Maintenance Workers to be ready to handle whatever crisis may arise on the highways.

The Maintenance Worker is on call at any time. In the winter, they spread sand and gravel for ice control and plow snow as soon as it is deep enough.



In the spring, flooding can cause great damage to bridges and highways. Immediate repair is essential to the overall condition of these structures and the Maintenance Workers are first on the scene.

Anything you can imagine that exists or happens between the fence line and the highway, and on the road itself, must be taken care of. That is why you will see the orange trucks along the side of a road. You will also see tractors, mowers, loaders, backhoes, draglines, and motor graders.

The primary objective of the maintenance staff of the Nebraska Department of Roads is to keep the highways safe for the motoring public.

Cleaning a ditch or filling shoulder cracks may not look like safety work, but if this is not done, a problem could result that would affect the roadway and threaten the traveling public.

Maintenance Supervisor...

The Highway Maintenance Supervisor organizes the work crews, assigns the jobs and number of people for each activity after consultation with the Maintenance Superintendent. They determine the equipment, the materials, and the quantities of material needed.

It is the Supervisor's job to inspect the highways in his or her area for future work as well as seeing that crews take care of any emergency work.

Supervisors do a lot of record keeping. In the field, they make notes of work done and work needed to be scheduled. In the office, they must account for all the equipment and materials used. They keep track of the hours and each activity performed by the maintenance crews.

The Maintenance Supervisors and their crews are “front line” people. When you see Department of Roads’ trucks and equipment on the highways, chances are they belong to the men and women who work every day to keep our highways safe and free of hazardous conditions.



Highway Surveyor...

You have probably seen a survey crew working along the highway. A survey party normally consists of two to five people. One person takes notes, one person operates the transit, another must run the rod, while another measures the precise distance. Often, survey parties must work with fewer people, and the jobs are overlapped.

Surveying is very exact, technical and time-consuming work. Surveying is often done several times on a site because of the different kinds of information needed. Preliminary surveys are taken for the design stages indicating the lay of the land. Another survey will be needed, before actual work can begin, to see how things have changed. Post construction surveys can determine the quantities of dirt that have been moved.

A survey party spends the entire day taking measurements, driving stakes, recording information, and determining exact distances for specific purposes. Although there is electronic equipment to assist in this job, crew members mainly work with some type of transit instrument and record a large number of measurements.



Inspector...

At the Department of Roads, all work gets inspected. Everything from planting seeds to driving bridge piling requires inspection. This includes many jobs done by the Department and all work done by the contractors.

It is an Inspector's job to see that all the work materials used and procedures followed, meet the Federal and State specifications.

Inspectors monitor progress every step of the way. On concrete paving projects for example, Department of Roads' inspectors will check all of the materials before anything is incorporated into the work. They will inspect procedures at the plant where the concrete is being mixed, at the gravel pit and even where the rock is being produced. Once raw materials are mixed together, inspectors check the finished product for proper consistency, moisture and air content, and general quality. After the concrete is placed, the Inspector will see that it is covered or "cured" within the proper time, and later make sure that joints are sawed efficiently and sealed properly.



Bridges and other structures along the State highway system must be inspected regularly. All new construction, overlay projects, laying of culverts, movement of earth, and landscaping projects, to name a few, are inspected throughout every phase.

A Department of Roads' Inspector is present any time that work is being done for the State by a private contractor. Records are kept, measurements are made and progress is documented by the inspectors. Normally, there is more than one inspector on a job. Inspectors may alternate between conducting inspections and doing survey work.

As Inspectors, these men and women follow crucial guidelines and observe as much as possible on their assigned job sites. It is their job to monitor the work as it progresses and to assure its completion in conformance with the official plans and specifications.



Project Manager...

Every construction or repair project let for bid by the Department of Roads has a manager assigned to oversee the work. The Project Manager is responsible for all the people on that job who work for the State. This includes inspectors, surveyors, engineering personnel, and department technicians.

Tremendous amounts of records are kept on each project. Project Managers use computers, hand-written records, and log a daily field book to build a complete file on each project. This documentation becomes the basis for all final payment and for settling any lawsuits.

A Project Manager must make sure the contractor maintains efficient traffic control through or around the work area. The Project Manager is in daily contact with the contractor or the contractor's superintendent. **When delays, material shortages, or unanticipated problems arise, the Department of Roads is kept informed through the Project Manager.**

It is an important job requiring special training, experience, knowledge of detailed record keeping, and extensive familiarity with a project's plans, specifications and environmental commitments.



Private Contractors...

Although Department of Roads' crews do much work on the State Highway System, construction projects are let to private contractors. These highway, bridge, and resurfacing projects are built by the contractors and monitored by the Department's inspectors and project managers.

Depending on the size and complexity of the project, the contractor may have numerous workers and several large pieces of equipment along a highway. Their construction crews are skilled in what they do and work quickly and efficiently. The Department of Roads has approximately 200 prime contractors eligible to bid for highway construction and improvement projects. There are additional contractors who work on projects as subcontractors for the prime contractor in select specified areas. The Department is also using consultants more frequently for surveying and construction inspection.

During an average year, the Department of Roads will have more than 200 projects in various stages of construction. A portion of this work is set aside for minority contractors. The average highway construction and improvement program for the State System has been approximately \$280-310 million per year.



Working to Preserve Nebraska's Highway System

A **good transportation network** is critical to the economic prosperity of any state. We need good roads to provide access from farm and manufacturing communities to the marketplace, to assist economic development, and to accommodate the growing number of travelers. In Nebraska the major transportation network is the State Highway System.

As of 2007 there were 9,950 miles of highways on the State System. This number can vary from year to year as small segments are added to or deleted from the system.

The **Department of Roads** is responsible for the construction, maintenance, and administration of the highway system. Preserving the billions of dollars Nebraskans have invested in their highways, making them safe and reliable, and doing so in a timely and cost-efficient manner are goals of the Nebraska Department of Roads.

The **Department employs** around 2,100 people to accomplish its work across the state. The people featured in this booklet are those you may see from day to day out working on the roads. It is they who often risk their lives by working dangerously close to moving traffic while making the roads safe for motorists.

If you have **questions** about work being done or wish to report a safety hazard along the State Highway System or the Interstate, please call the Nebraska Department of Roads. *District office phone numbers are shown on the following page.*

District Headquarters

District 1
Lincoln
(402)471-0850

District 2
Omaha
(402)595-2534

District 3
Norfolk
(402)370-3470

District 4
Grand Island
(308)385-6265

District 5
Gering
(308)436-6587

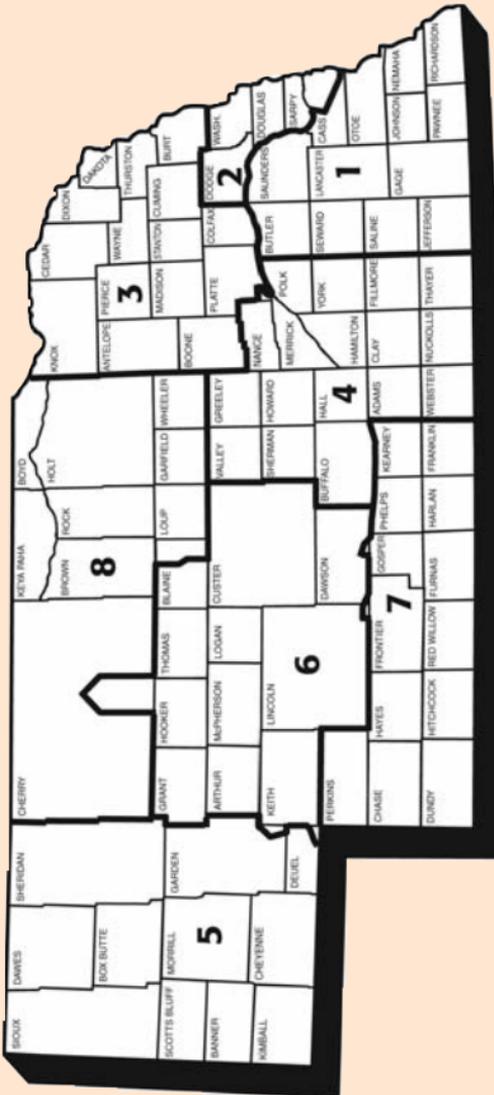
District 6
North Platte
(308)535-8031

District 7
McCook
(308)345-8490

District 8
Ainsworth
(402)387-2471

NDOR State Headquarters

PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759
(402)479-4512



*When you're in the
driver's seat, you make
the difference.*



*Slow down through
work zones.*